CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A shutter system for covering an opening in a wall of a building, the shutter system comprising:

a retractable and deployable barrier assembly having a periphery larger than the opening in the wall when the barrier assembly is deployed, the barrier assembly defining a plurality of holes for receiving a corresponding plurality of fasteners and further defining an inside surface and an outside surface, the inside surface of the barrier assembly being positioned proximate the opening in the wall after deployment of the barrier assembly;

at least a first support brace mountable within the opening and defining a plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of fasteners, the at least a first support brace being constructed to be positioned against the inside surface of the barrier assembly after deployment of the barrier assembly; and

at least a second support brace constructed to be positioned against the outside surface of the barrier assembly after deployment of the barrier assembly, the at least a second support brace defining a plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of fasteners as the fasteners initially penetrate the shutter system, whereby the at least a first support brace and the at least a second support brace cooperate with the barrier assembly to provide additional support to the barrier assembly during exertion of a displacement force against the outside surface of the barrier assembly.

2. The shutter system of claim 1, wherein the barrier assembly comprises a plurality of interlocking slats and wherein at least some of the plurality of slats define a plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of fasteners, the plurality of slats further defining the inside surface and the outside surface of the barrier assembly.

3. The shutter system of claim 2, wherein the barrier assembly further comprises a motorized roller constructed to retain the plurality of slats in a rolled configuration until deployment is desired and to deploy the plurality of slats upon activation by a user such that the plurality of slats cover the opening in the wall.

4. The shutter system of claim 1, wherein the barrier assembly comprises a pair of flexible panels and wherein each of the panels defines a corresponding plurality of holes for receiving a corresponding set of the plurality of fasteners, the panels further defining the inside surface and the outside surface of the barrier assembly.

5. The shutter system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of fasteners comprises a plurality of threaded bolts and wherein the plurality of holes defined by the at least a first support brace include threads for receiving the plurality of threaded bolts.

6. The shutter system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the barrier assembly, the at least a first support brace, and the at least a second support brace comprises steel.

7. The shutter system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the barrier assembly, the at least a first support brace, and the at least a second support brace comprises an aluminum alloy.

8. The shutter system of claim 1, further comprising the plurality of fasteners.

9. The shutter system of claim 8, wherein the plurality of fasteners comprises a plurality of threaded bolts and a corresponding plurality of wing nuts.

10. A shutter system for covering an opening in a wall of a building, the shutter system comprising:

a retractable and deployable barrier assembly having a periphery larger than the opening in the wall when the barrier assembly is deployed, the barrier assembly defining a plurality of holes for receiving a corresponding plurality of fasteners and further defining an inside surface and an outside surface, the inside surface of the barrier assembly being positioned proximate the opening in the wall after deployment of the barrier assembly;

a first plurality of support braces mountable in a parallel configuration within the opening in the wall, each of the first plurality of support braces defining a respective plurality of holes for receiving at least some of the plurality of fasteners, each of the first plurality of support braces being constructed to be positioned against the inside surface of the barrier assembly after deployment of the barrier assembly; and a second plurality of support braces mountable in a parallel configuration corresponding to the parallel configuration of the first plurality of support braces, the second plurality of support braces being constructed to be positioned against the outside surface of the barrier assembly after deployment of the barrier assembly, each of the second plurality of support braces defining a respective plurality of holes for receiving at least some of the plurality of fasteners as the fasteners initially penetrate the shutter system, whereby the first plurality of support braces and the second plurality of support braces cooperate with the barrier assembly to provide additional support to the barrier assembly during exertion of a displacement force against the outside surface of the barrier assembly.

11. The shutter system of claim 10, wherein the barrier assembly comprises a plurality of interlocking slats and wherein at least some of the plurality of slats define a plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of fasteners, the plurality of slats further defining the inside surface and the outside surface of the barrier assembly.

12. The shutter system of claim 11, wherein the barrier assembly further comprises a motorized roller constructed to retain the plurality of slats in a rolled configuration until deployment is desired and to deploy the plurality of slats upon activation by a user such that the plurality of slats cover the opening in the wall.

13. The shutter system of claim 10, wherein the barrier assembly comprises at least two flexible panels and wherein each of the panels defines a corresponding plurality

of holes for receiving a corresponding set of the plurality of fasteners, the panels further defining the inside surface and the outside surface of the barrier assembly.

14. The shutter system of claim 10, wherein the plurality of fasteners comprises a plurality of threaded bolts and wherein the plurality of holes defined by the first plurality of support braces include threads for receiving the plurality of threaded bolts.

15. The shutter system of claim 10, wherein at least one of the barrier assembly, the first plurality of support braces, and the second plurality of support braces comprises steel.

16. The shutter system of claim 10, wherein at least one of the barrier assembly, the first plurality of support braces, and the second plurality of support braces comprises an aluminum alloy.

17. The shutter system of claim 10, further comprising the plurality of fasteners.

18. The shutter system of claim 17, wherein the plurality of fasteners comprises a plurality of threaded bolts and a corresponding plurality of wing nuts.

19. A method for installing a shutter system to cover an opening in a wall of a building, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of fasteners;

mounting at least a first support brace within the opening in the wall, the at least a first support brace defining a plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of fasteners;

mounting a retractable and deployable barrier assembly to the building, the barrier assembly having a periphery larger than the opening in the wall when the barrier assembly is deployed, the barrier assembly defining a plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of fasteners and further defining an inside surface and an outside surface, the inside surface of the barrier assembly being positioned proximate the opening in the wall after deployment of the barrier assembly; and

providing at least a second support brace constructed to be positioned against the outside surface of the barrier assembly after deployment of the barrier assembly such that the at least a first support brace and the at least a second support brace cooperate with the barrier assembly to provide additional support to the barrier assembly during exertion of a displacement force against the outside surface of the barrier assembly, the at least a second support brace defining a plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of fasteners as the fasteners initially penetrate the shutter system during use of the shutter system.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the barrier assembly comprises a plurality of interlocking slats, the plurality of slats defining a plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of fasteners.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the barrier assembly comprises a pair of flexible panels, at least one of the panels defining a plurality of holes for receiving at least some of the plurality of fasteners.